

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 16068 291524Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 16068

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EG AO OVIP (MC Henry)
SUBJECT: MC Henry TRIP TO LUANDA

REF: (A) CAIRO 15452, (B) STATE 157341

1. DURING COURSE OF MEETING JUNE 29 ON OTHER SUBJECTS, DIRECTOR MFA AFRICAN DEPARTMENT AHMED SIDQI TOLD EMBOFFS THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT TIMING AND LACK OF EXPLANATION FORMCHENRY TRIP TO ANGOLA. HE UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED WITH THE NEED TO SEARCH FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION TO ANGOLAN AND ANGOLAN-ZAIRIAN PROBLEMS, BUT VISIT SHOULD NOT, IN HIS VIEW, HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN JUST BEFORE OAU MEETING IN KHARTOUM. AFRICAN MODERATES ARE, AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY INFORMED EMBASSY, IN PROCESS OF CONSIDERING SOME ACTION AT KHARTOUM AGAINST CUBAN PRESENCE, SUCH AS CALLING FOR POSTPONEMENT SINE DIE OF 1979 NAC SUMMIT (REF A).

2. SIDQI SAID THAT, GIVEN OPENING OF U.S.-ANGOLAN TALKS, PARTICULARLY AT THIS HIGH LEVEL, SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES WILL NOW HESITATE TO SUPPORT ANY SUCH OAU ACTION. ALTHOUGH TIMING IS SHORT BEFORE OPENING OF KHARTOUM MEETING, IT IS STILL IMPORTANT, IN SIDQI'S OPINION, THAT U.S. EXPLAIN TO AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS PURPOSE
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OF MC Henry TRIP. IF THIS IS NOT DONE AT LEAST PRIVATELY, SUPPOSITION THAT U.S. NO LONGER OBJECTS TO CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA WILL GAIN GROUND, OR AT MINIMUM THIS ARGUMENT WILL BE USED TO UNDERMINE ANTI-CUBAN EFFORTS OF MODERATES.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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